

## **MINUTES**

### **MONTANA SENATE 65th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

#### **COMMITTEE ON TAXATION**

**Call to Order:** Chair Mark Blasdel, on March 17, 2017 at 9:00 A.M., in Room 405 Capitol

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Sen. Mark Blasdel, Chair (R)  
Sen. Roger Webb, Vice Chair (R)  
Sen. Dick Barrett (D)  
Sen. Jill Cohenour (D)  
Sen. Brian Hoven (R)  
Sen. Sue Malek (D)  
Sen. Edith (Edie) McClafferty (D)  
Sen. JP Pomnichowski (D)  
Sen. Tom Richmond (R)  
Sen. Russel (Russ) Tempel (R)

**Members Excused:** Sen. Scott Sales (R), Sen. Fred Thomas (R)

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Jaret Coles, Legislative Branch  
Olivia Hopkins, Committee Secretary

**Audio Committees:** These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing & Date Posted: SB 328, 3/10/2017

Executive Action: HB 30, HB 396

00:00:35 Chairman Blasdel

**HEARING ON SB 328**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:01:12 Sen. Lea Whitford (D), SD 8, opened the hearing on SB 328, Generally revise alcohol tax laws.

00:01:16 Sen. Pomnichowski entered the meeting.

00:06:06 Chairman Blasdel

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:06:29 Mike Kadas, director, Montana Department of Revenue (DOR)  
 00:09:06 Heather O'Loughlin, Montana Budget and Policy Center (MBPC)  
 00:10:27 Andy Bixler, Montana Associated Students  
 00:11:43 Ken Brown, Opportunity Resources  
 00:14:12 Jacquie Helt, state director, Service Employees International Union  
 00:15:13 Abigail St. Lawrence, Montana Association of Christians  
 00:16:33 Jules Shindel, Montana Human Rights Network and Montana Women Vote  
 00:18:06 Katy Westhoff, Montana Public Interest Research Group  
 00:18:46 Abigail Belcher, Associated Students of the University of Montana  
 00:19:15 Stacey Anderson, Montana Primary Care Association (MPCA)  
 00:22:04 John Iverson, Montana Tavern Association  
 00:22:21 Lauren Caldwell, Montana Education Association and Montana Federation of Teachers

**Opponents' Testimony:**

00:22:58 Robert Story, Montana Taxpayers Association (MONTAX)  
[EXHIBIT\(tas56a01\)](#)

00:26:23 Bob Miller, Liquor Store Owners Association of Montana  
 00:29:03 Mark Taylor, Anheuser-Busch Companies (A-B)  
 00:29:56 Kristi Blazer, Montana Bear and Wine Distributors  
 00:31:50 David Herbst, Americans for Prosperity Montana  
 00:32:05 Rep. Mike Hopkins, HD 92  
 00:34:29 Mona Jamison, Wine Institute  
 00:36:17 Brad Griffin, Montana Restaurant Association  
 00:36:39 Bridger Mahlum, Montana Chamber of Commerce

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:37:54 Sen. Malek  
 00:38:17 Mr. Taylor, A-B  
 00:38:57 Sen. Malek  
 00:39:11 Mr. Taylor

00:39:35 Sen. Malek  
00:40:12 Sen. Whitford  
00:40:46 Shauna Helfert, Montana Department of Revenue (DOR)  
00:41:16 Sen. Malek  
00:41:23 Ms. Helfert, DOR  
00:44:35 Sen. Malek  
00:44:42 Mr. Story, MONTAX  
00:45:17 Sen. Barrett  
00:45:47 Rep. Hopkins  
00:46:06 Sen. Barrett  
00:46:41 Ms. O'Loughlin, MBPC  
00:47:37 Sen. Cohenour  
00:48:06 Mr. Kadas, DOR  
00:48:43 Sen. Cohenour  
00:49:11 Ms. Anderson, MPCA  
00:50:24 Sen. Cohenour  
00:51:36 Ms. Anderson  
00:51:59 Sen. Malek  
00:53:02 Sen. Whitford  
00:55:33 Sen. Malek  
00:56:30 Sen. Whitford  
00:57:59 Sen. Richmond  
00:58:22 Ms. Helfert  
00:58:50 Sen. Richmond  
01:00:30 Ms. Helfert  
01:01:13 Sen. Hoven  
01:02:02 Sen. Whitford  
01:02:45 Mr. Kadas  
01:02:56 Sen. Hoven  
01:03:27 Mr. Kadas  
01:05:01 Sen. Barrett  
01:06:47 Mr. Kadas  
01:07:09 Chairman Blasdel  
01:07:58 Ms. Helfert  
01:09:40 Chairman Blasdel  
01:11:08 Ms. Helfert  
01:12:07 Chairman Blasdel  
01:12:12 Ms. Helfert

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:12:34 Sen. Whitford  
01:15:20 Chairman Blasdel  
01:15:39 Recess  
01:27:37 Reconvene

**Discussion:**

01:27:41 Chairman Blasdel

01:28:03 Sen. Hoven

[EXHIBIT](#)(tas56a02)

01:28:46 Sen. Barrett

01:29:05 Chairman Blasdel

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 30**

01:29:29 **Motion:** Sen. R. Webb moved that **HB 30 BE CONCURRED IN.**

**Discussion:**

01:29:39 Chairman Blasdel

01:29:45 **Vote:** Motion carried 10-0 by voice vote. Sen. S. Sales and Sen. Thomas were excused. Sen. Barrett will carry the bill.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 396**

01:30:10 **Motion/Vote:** Sen. R. Webb moved that **HB 396 BE CONCURRED IN.** Motion carried 10-0 by voice vote. Sen. S. Sales and Sen. Thomas were excused. Sen. Cohenour will carry the bill.

**Discussion:**

01:30:38 Chairman Blasdel

01:32:18 Sen. Hoven

01:32:38 Chairman Blasdel

01:33:07 Sen. Barrett

01:33:57 Chairman Blasdel

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 10:37 AM

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Olivia Hopkins, Secretary

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**Additional Documents**

Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT**([tas56aad.pdf](#))